

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An elongate weatherstrip for a motor vehicle, said weatherstrip ~~the weatherstrip having a length and a width and~~ comprising, in combination,

a metal carrier including a length and a width and having a first longitudinally extending region of a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, [[the]] said first region being longitudinally distinct from said [[the]] second region and said width of said carrier in said first region equal to said width of said carrier in said second region, so that ~~different parts of the weatherstrip spaced along the length of the weatherstrip have different~~ flexibilities, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one sealing feature.

2. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

3. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said metal carrier.

4. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

5. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

6. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and a portion of said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

7. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is a continuous, unitary piece.

8. (Currently Amended) A sealing strip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

a U-shaped carrier having a first longitudinally extending region including a width and having [[of]] a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region including a width equal to said width of said first region, said second region having [[of]] a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, the first region being longitudinally spaced from the second region, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one feature

adapted to provide a seal against a vehicle component.

9. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said U-shaped carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

10. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said U-shaped carrier.

11. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

12. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

13. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a generally circular, hollow member.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein a portion of said elastomeric material defines a shape corresponding to said U-shaped carrier.

15. (Currently Amended) A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

a hybrid carrier having a first longitudinally extending region including a width and having [[of]] a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region and including a width equal to said width of said first region, said second region having [[of]] a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, wherein said first and said second regions include ~~having~~ substantially uniform flexibility along their respective widths, and

an elastomeric sealing material encapsulating said carrier, said material defining at least one longitudinally extending sealing feature.

16. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is fabricated of metal.

17. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said hybrid carrier.

18. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

19. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

20. (Original) The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

21. (Previously Presented) The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said first and said second regions have substantially uniform flexibility along their respective widths.

22. (New) The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said first region includes a mechanical modification in said carrier and said second region includes a mechanical modification in said carrier different from said mechanical modification in said carrier of said first region.